

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a display;  
3 a first input key; and  
4 operating logic associated with the first input key to display on said display  
5 one or more emoticons for selection by a user, responsive to a selection of said first  
6 input key, when the apparatus is operating in a text mode.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for  
2 entering an "\*" (asterisk) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for  
2 entering a "#" (pound) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first input key is an input key for  
2 entering a digit when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a 12-key  
2 input key pad having 12 input keys arranged in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of  
3 at least a selected one of alphabet and numeric data, and said first input key being  
4 one of said 12 input keys.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said first input key is the input key  
2 occupying a fourth row and first column position of said 4x3 array configuration.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein column positions of said 4x3 array  
2 configuration are determined in a selected one of a left-to-right and a right-to-left  
3 manner.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein row positions of said 4x3 array  
2 configuration are determined in a selected one of a top-to-bottom and a bottom-to-  
3 top manner.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein in addition to said first input key, said  
2 apparatus further comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys arranged  
3 in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet and  
4 numeric data.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operating logic is designed to display  
2 said emoticons for selection in a selected one of a first left-to-right then top-to-  
3 bottom display arrangement, a second right-to-left then top-to-bottom display  
4 arrangement, a third top-to-bottom then left-to-right display arrangement, and a  
5 fourth top-to-bottom then right-to-left display arrangement.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operating logic is designed to place a  
2 current focus on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to  
2 change said placement of current focus to another one of said one or more  
3 emoticons displayed for selection responsive to a user input.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said operating logic is designed to  
2 perform said changes in accordance with the order the one or more emoticons are  
3 displayed for selection.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first input key is also employed to  
2 provide said user input.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said apparatus further comprises at least  
2 one other input key, and said at least one other input key is employed to provide  
3 said user input.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to  
2 automatically select the emoticon with the current focus upon occurrence of a  
3 selected one of elapse of a predetermined amount of time after the first input key  
4 was last selected, and selection another input key.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said operating logic is further designed to  
2 select the emoticon with the current focus, responsive to a user input

1 18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more emoticons  
2 comprises a plurality of characters.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said placement of a current focus on a  
2 first of displayed emoticons comprises highlighting all characters of the first  
3 emoticon.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said highlighting comprises a selected  
2 one of underlying, italicizing and employing bold faces for the characters .

1 21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said selecting of the emoticon with the  
2 current focus comprises selecting all characters of the emoticon with the current  
3 focus.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more emoticons  
2 comprises a pixel map based single graphical symbol.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
3 designed to implement said operating logic; and  
4 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
5 instruction.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a communication device.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said communication device is a wireless  
2 mobile phone.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises facilities  
2 for adding an emoticon to, or subtracting an emoticon from said one or more  
3 emoticons to be displayed for user selection.

1 27. A communication device comprising:  
2 a display;  
3 a first input key; and  
4 operating logic associated with the first input key to display on said display  
5 one or more emoticons for selection by a user, including placing a current focus on a  
6 first of the displayed one or more emoticons, responsive to a selection of said first  
7 input key, and to automatically select the emoticon having the current focus upon  
8 expiration of a predetermined amount of time since the current focus was placed.

1 28. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input  
2 key for entering an "\*" (asterisk) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 29. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input  
2 key for entering a "#" (pound) when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 30. The communication device of claim 27, wherein the first input key is an input  
2 key for entering a digit when the apparatus is operating in a voice mode.

1 31. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said apparatus further  
2 comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys arranged in a 4x3 array  
3 configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet and numeric data, and  
4 said first input key being one of said 12 input keys.

1 32. The communication device of claim 27, wherein in addition to said first input  
2 key, said apparatus further comprises a 12-key input key pad having 12 input keys  
3 arranged in a 4x3 array configuration for entry of at least a selected one of alphabet  
4 and numeric data.

1 33. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said operating logic is  
2 designed to display said one or more emoticons for selection in a selected one of a  
3 first left-to-right then top-to-bottom display arrangement, a second right-to-left then  
4 top-to-bottom display arrangement, a third top-to-bottom then left-to-right display  
5 arrangement, and a fourth top-to-bottom then right-to-left display arrangement.

1 34. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said operating logic is further  
2 designed to change said placement of current focus to another one of said one or  
3 more emoticons displayed for selection responsive to a user input.

1 35. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said operating logic is  
2 designed to perform said changes in accordance with the order the one or more  
3 emoticons are displayed for selection.

1 36. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said first input key is also  
2 employed to provide said user input.

1 37. The communication device of claim 34, wherein said apparatus further  
2 comprises at least one other input key, and said at least one other input key is  
3 employed to provide said user input.

1 38. The communication device of claim 27, wherein each of said one or more  
2 emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 39. The communication device of claim 38, wherein said placement of a current  
2 focus on a first of the displayed one or more emoticons comprises highlighting all  
3 characters of the first emoticon.

1 40. The communication device of claim 39, wherein said highlighting comprises a  
2 selected one of underlying, italicizing and employing bold faces for the characters .

1 41. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said selecting of the  
2 emoticon with the current focus comprises selecting all characters of the emoticon  
3 with the current focus.

1 42. The communication device of claim 27, wherein each of said one or more  
2 emoticons comprises a pixel map based single graphical symbol.

1 43. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said apparatus further  
2 comprises:  
3 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
4 designed to implement said operating logic; and  
5 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming  
6 instruction.

1 44. The communication device of claim 27, wherein said communication device is  
2 a wireless mobile phone.

1 45. A communication device cover comprising:  
2 a plurality of input keys including first input key; and  
3 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
4 designed to enable a communication device mated with the communication device  
5 cover to display on a display of the communication device one or more emoticons for  
6 selection responsive to a selection of said first input key.

1 46. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to place a current focus  
3 on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 47. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to change said  
3 placement of current focus to another one of said one or more emoticons displayed  
4 for selection responsive to a user input.

1 48. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to select the emoticon  
3 with the current focus, in a selected one of an automatic manner and a responsive to  
4 user input manner.

1 49. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said storage medium  
2 further having stored therein a plurality of emoticons.



1 50. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein said storage medium  
2 further having stored therein information identifying said first input key.

1 51. The communication device cover of claim 45, wherein each of said one or  
2 more emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 ~~52.~~ A communication device cover comprising:  
2 a plurality of input keys including first input key; and  
3 storage medium having stored therein a resource identifier identifying a  
4 location where a plurality of programming instructions may be retrieved for a  
5 communication device mated with the communication device cover, wherein the  
6 programming instructions are designed to enable the mated communication device  
7 to display on a display of the communication device one or more emoticons for  
8 selection responsive to a selection of said first input key.

1 53. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to place a current focus  
3 on one of the one or more emoticons displayed for selection.

1 54. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to change said  
3 placement of current focus to another one of said one or more emoticons displayed  
4 for selection responsive to a user input.

1 55. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said programming  
2 instructions further enable the mated communication device to select the emoticon  
3 with the current focus, in a selected one of an automatic manner and a responsive to  
4 user input manner

1 56. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said identified location  
2 further having stored therein a plurality of emoticons.

1 57. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein said identified location  
2 further having stored therein information identifying said first input key.

1 58. The communication device cover of claim 52, wherein each of said one or  
2 more emoticons comprises a plurality of characters.

1 ~~59.~~ A method comprising:  
2 displaying one or more emoticons for selection responsive to a selection of an  
3 input key;  
4 placing a current focus on a first of the displayed one or more emoticons; and  
5 automatically selecting the emoticon with the current focus upon elapse of a  
6 predetermined amount of time after the current focus was placed.

1 60. The method of claim 59, wherein the method further comprises moving the  
2 current focus to a second of the displayed one or more emoticons responsive to a  
3 user input.

1 61. The method of claim 59, wherein each of said one or more emoticons  
2 comprises a plurality of characters.

1 62. The method of claim 61, wherein said placing of a current focus on a first of  
2 the displayed one or more emoticons comprises highlighting all characters of the first  
3 emoticon.

1 63. The method of claim 61, wherein said automatic selection of the emoticon  
2 with the current focus comprises automatically selecting all characters of the  
3 emoticon with the current focus.

1 64. The method of claim 63, wherein the method further comprises facilitating  
2 editing of the automatically selected characters of the emoticon.

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